

# HACKER'S CREEK

## JOURNAL



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of Central West Virginia  
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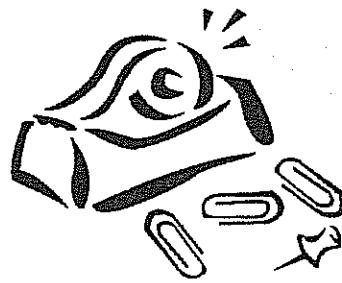
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There is currently one vacancy.

## From the DESK Of the DIRECTOR



As I sit here looking out my window at our 2-4 inches of snow, it doesn't appear that spring is very near, but when I check the calendar I know that it is only a couple of weeks away. Spring brings exciting thoughts to mind. We know that many of you will soon be planning visits to our library and we are looking forward to seeing you. Our volunteers are hard at work preparing materials that have been donated to us for placement on the shelves. We hope to have them ready so that many new sources of information will be available to you in the library.

Our website also has a new "spring" look as well. Joy **STALNAKER** has been working hard at updating and adding information there. So you may want to visit [www.hackerscreek.com](http://www.hackerscreek.com) and see what is new and exciting.

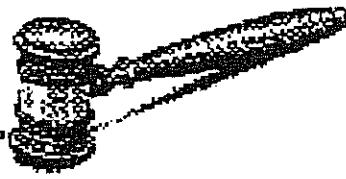
Spring also brings thoughts of our annual Gathering. We hope each and every one of you will plan to attend this year. The theme is "Home is Where the Heart Is." The dates are August 11-14, 2005. Barbara **PALMER** is planning lots of great workshops, speakers and entertainment, not to mention the great food and fellowship. Details are included with this Journal.

On May 22, we are working with our local radio station, WHAW, to hold the first ever "WHAW Radio Singin', Eatin' and History Festival @ Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants @ Homer." Fourteen musical groups will perform between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Best Part! You can listen in on your computer. WHAW will be streaming the programming from [www.whawradio.com](http://www.whawradio.com). Maybe you would even like to check out the station now from your computer and become a regular listener of "redneck" radio.

Hope to see you this spring! If we may be of service to you in planning your trip here please contact me at [hcdd@hackerscreek.com](mailto:hcdd@hackerscreek.com).

Betty Ann

## Prose from the PREZ



Greetings, fellow HCPDers!

As I sit at my computer to compose this missive, it is still another dreary, cold day—occasional flurries, occasional snow squalls, overcast and ugly. Since March came in like a lion here in WV, we can only hope it will go out like a lamb. I guess we are paying for the several rather balmy days we had in February, when the daffodils and crocuses began peeking out of the ground. Oh well, Punxsutawney Phil and French Creek Freddie said 6 more weeks—so we ought to be about done with winter.

Here at HCPD we continue to work on the Gathering— I still hope you are ALL planning to attend. We also have our Trash and Treasure sale coming up next month and, if the weather EVER clears up, we would like to have a lock-in, perhaps coupled with a work day. We are also working on a raffle to be held in conjunction with the gathering. More about that later.

Everyone here is working on special projects as their time permits. There is a group diligently working their way through Lewis County Death Records so that we can publish them. I recently completed a book of Family Group Records that have been submitted over time. I would do more of these, and more 5-generation chart books if you kind folks will submit more of your information.

Come late spring or early summer, I hope to get started on reading Monongalia County cemeteries. Most of them, especially the larger ones, have not been read since it was done as a WPA project during the Depression. Needless to say, a few folks have died in Monongalia County since then. It will take a while. My son and I are working on an Access program to create a form to use in reading cemeteries. Actually, he is doing the work—I am just telling him what to put in the form. When he gets it done, we will also be redoing our existing cemetery books at the library. Unfortunately, most of them were never computerized, so updating them is a real chore. I will be entering their info into the program, so we can update more easily.

Recently, we have found items missing from the library—sometimes just pages from some of the 3 ring binders. We would like to presume that most of this is inadvertent—someone removes a page to copy and it accidentally gets stuck in with his or her research. If you come upon something that found its way into your material, PLEASE send it back, or bring it back with you if you are coming soon. We won't point any fingers or think any less of you for having it—heck,

even I have stuck something in with my research when I was leaving the library! Once it was even one of our 3-ring binders! I still haven't figured out how I managed to do that.

We have been thinking about doing another quilt. It has been several years since we did the last one- probably many of you don't even have any idea what I am talking about. Folks around the country did a square representing their family- we sent the muslin so everyone had the same material and the same size. Then our fabulous Marian LOOKER pieced it together and quilted it and we raffled it off. Our equally fabulous Paula CURRAN was the winner of the quilt, but she graciously returned it to the library the following year because she thought it should belong to all of us. If you have visited the library, I am sure you have seen it hanging in the stacks. This time we might do something different. However, we can't do anything at all without help from you folks. So, let us know what you think. You can reach me at GodivaM@adelphia.net, and, of course, you know to find Betty Ann at hcopd@hackerscreek.com.

Until next time,

Mary

# GUIDELINES FOR WRITING FOR THE HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL

Non-fiction articles in these categories are preferred:

- families who either lived in or passed through the Central West Virginia area
- historical events that touched the lives of West Virginians or their ancestors
- a combination of family and historical events
- abstracted records (court, newspaper, census, etc.)
- genealogical how-tos

1. Articles should contain some genealogy.
2. Write the story as though you were telling it to someone in person. Do not let the fear of using incorrect grammar or punctuation prevent you from submitting articles. These are things that the editor will correct
3. Capitalize each letter of surnames and put in bold, such as: John D. **HACKER**.
4. Cite your sources for genealogies and scholarly articles. Footnotes or endnotes are acceptable. If you are unable to footnote, a bibliography of resources is acceptable. The bibliography should contain the title of the resource and the author where possible. In the case of court records, refer to book and page.
5. **Photographs:** Pictures add depth to a story. At least one photo per story is suggested but not necessary. If you wish to submit additional photos, the editor will make the decision about pictures to be used. Identify as many persons in the photo as possible as well as the photographer. If known, tell where, why, and when the photo was taken. Photo quality photographs or scanned images in \*.tif or \*.jpg format are preferred. DO NOT submit original photographs.
6. **Length:** Articles may be whatever length it takes to tell the story. Articles of less than one page will be used for "fillers." If the article is to be more than 6 single-spaced pages in 12-point font, please contact the editor. Longer articles may be serialized over two or more issues.
7. **Copyright:** The author retains copyright to the article and may submit it to other periodicals. Requests to the JOURNAL to reprint an article will be forwarded to the author. The HCJ also copyrights the story as part of the JOURNAL.
8. **Additional Information:** We DO NOT return photos or manuscripts. The editor retains the right to accept or reject an article as unsuitable and to determine the schedule for publication. We will attempt to work with an author to ensure that the article meets the high standards for which the JOURNAL has become noted over the years. (cont. p. 14)

# Interim Report on George **COLLINS**

## (b. 1760-65, d. 1840-50)

### Part One

Dedicated to the Memory of Mrs. Clerissa **TATTERSON**  
of Pittsburgh, PA

by John J. HOOD

#### INTRODUCTION

I have written this report to outline the research that I have done on-and-off over the last 18 years (in conjunction with other researchers) on an elusive ancestor of mine named George **COLLINS** who appears to have many descendants in central West Virginia. He has been an extremely difficult man to track down as he has a somewhat common name, left few records in his wake, and what records do exist appear to contain fraudulent statements that he made (in regard to his application to receive a pension for alleged services during the Revolutionary War). As far as I am concerned, there is still more work to be done on George **COLLINS**, and there is the chance that the discovery few more records could (and I should emphasize \*could\*) radically alter the picture of George **COLLINS** that we have at this time.

What started out as two separate searches into my family's history soon merged into one search for George **COLLINS**. The first search was to discover the parents of an ancestor of mine named Hezekiah **COLLINS** (1817-1903). For the longest time, it appeared that Hezekiah simply dropped out of the sky and into the Leading Creek area of Calhoun County prior to the Civil War. In 1978, Colvin **SNIDER** published a "monogram" claiming that Hezekiah **COLLINS** was the son of Isaac **COLLINS** and Rachel Cunningham **COLLINS**. This claim, in my opinion, never had the ring of truth to it. As a descendant of Isaac and Rachel (**CUNNINGHAM**) **COLLINS** through another line, I had never met another researcher who listed Hezekiah **COLLINS** as a son of Isaac and Rachel (**CUNNINGHAM**) **COLLINS** and, so far, no credible records have been found to support this claim.

The other impetus that I received for tracing George **COLLINS** came from the late Clerissa **TATTERSON** of Pittsburgh, PA. I had the honor of visiting Clerissa in 1982 not long after she had written her history on John **COLLINS** of Frederick County, VA. She and five other women had worked for nearly 30

years trying to track down the John **COLLINS** family. The records she had collected over the years and the correspondence that she had in her storage boxes was amazing. I was also tremendously impressed by her skills as a researcher. She said that she was only able to prove three sons of John **COLLINS** Sr.: Thomas, John Jr. and George. George, she said, was the one son that she knew the least about and that she was going to "pass the torch" on to me to discover more about the family of George **COLLINS** (her husband was ill with cancer in 1982 and I think she knew that she was going to do little more in the way of research). She had only discovered two children for George, William and Sarah. We discussed Hezekiah **COLLINS** and Colvin **SNIDER'S** "monogram" and she believed that Hezekiah **COLLINS** may have been a son of George as she knew that Hezekiah was a popular name in the **SMITH** family which she believed to be the family from which his second wife came. [Note: I greatly admired Mrs. **TATTERSON** for the work that she had accomplished, and anything I write that may appear to be a criticism of her work is not intended to sound that way. I am building on her work and correcting what I consider to be minor errors that she made.]

## THE HUNT BEGINS

The starting point for "nailing down" both Hezekiah and George **COLLINS** was the 1820 census. The 1900 census for Calhoun County, WV stated that Hezekiah **COLLINS** was born in February of 1817 in (what was then) Lewis County, West Virginia (and other records have corroborated this fact). Hence, one would expect to find him as a male child under the age of 10 in the 1820 census. Of all **COLLINS** households listed in the 1820 Lewis County census, there were only two that had a son in this age bracket: Isaac S. **COLLINS** and George **COLLINS**. Since Isaac S. had only one male child in this category, it had to be that of his known son, Felix. The 1830 census also shows no "room" in the Isaac S. **COLLINS** household for an additional son named Hezekiah (see Appendix "A"). The 1820 and 1830 census records of the George **COLLINS** household, however, show a male child the age of Hezekiah, and that male child disappears in the 1840 census when Hezekiah appears as the head of his own household in the 1840 Lewis County census. This builds a strong case for Hezekiah being a son of George **COLLINS**, (but it cannot be called "proof").

Not satisfied with the analysis of the census data, I then went to the courthouse in Lewis County to do some more research. Although there is only one George **COLLINS** in the Lewis County census records for 1820, 1830 and 1840, there was one other George **COLLINS** who appeared in the records in the Lewis County courthouse during this same time period. The manner in which I could

distinguish one George **COLLINS** from the other is that one of them was able to write his name and the other signed documents with an "X" (and presumably was illiterate). The George **COLLINS** who signed his documents with an "X" caught my eye as this George **COLLINS** obtained a land grant for 100 acres of land on Elias' Run of Leading Creek in present-day Calhoun County, and Hezekiah **COLLINS** lived most of his life on Leading Creek. George **COLLINS** obtained this land in 1829 as a new grant (so the tax records states) and sold it in on January 1, 1838 to Manley **COLLINS**. Not only that, but Hezekiah was married in 1838 or 1839 to Roanna Jane **MAZE**, a daughter of Benaiah **MAZE**, who is known to have made his home in the Yellow Creek area of Calhoun County (a ridge or so away from Leading Creek). In addition to that, this George ("Signs-with-an-X") Collins sold this tract on Leading Creek to Manley **COLLINS**, and this is not significant in and of itself until you consider that this Manley **COLLINS** (who received the land) and Hezekiah **COLLINS** are found listed next to each other in the 1840 census of Lewis County, WV, and also that Hezekiah **COLLINS** named one of his sons Manley. Although this was still no proof that George, Hezekiah and Manley **COLLINS** were related, the circumstantial evidence was accumulating in such a way that it would be hard to imagine how these people could all be strangers who just acted like family.

There were, however, two troublesome findings. In the 1838 deed in which George **COLLINS** sells his tract of land on Leading Creek to Manley **COLLINS**, it records the name of George **COLLINS'** wife as being "Polly", and I had a hard time reconciling "Polly" as a nickname for "Abigail" (as Mrs. **TATTERSON** claimed that George's second wife was Abigail **SMITH**). Also, this means that George **COLLINS** was not deceased by September 4, 1833 as Mrs. **TATTERSON** thought but lived beyond that to at least 1838. I wrote to Mrs. **TATTERSON** regarding my findings. She verified the fact that the other George **COLLINS** ("Signs-with-his-name") found in the courthouse records in Lewis County was a George **COLLINS** that was unrelated to John **COLLINS** Sr.. This other George **COLLINS** was related to a Robert **COLLINS** who moved to Lewis County from Randolph County, WV around 1811.

### THAT TROUBLESOME SECOND MARRIAGE

In George **COLLINS'** Revolutionary War pension application dated August 3, 1831, he claimed that he had nine children by a second wife whom he does not name. I (and most everyone else) accepted the notion that this second wife was Abigail **SMITH** as that is what Clarissa **TATTERSON** listed in her work on the Collins family. What was troubling was that when I examined the census records of 1820 and 1830 for the George **COLLINS** household, the age of the oldest female (who would presumably be his wife) would have meant that

Abigail **SMITH** was between 4 and 14 years old when George **COLLINS** married her, and that can simply be dismissed as being impossible. In tracking the household back through to the 1810 census, there emerged a pattern of a family with two sets of children and another marriage occurring sometime around 1809 or 1810.

This "hunch" about a marriage occurring around 1809 or 1810 was verified for me courtesy of Dick and Pat **CALLIHAN** of Duncan Falls, Ohio. In Wes **COCHRAN'S** published transcription of the Harrison County, WV marriage bonds, they found a record of a marriage bond for a George **COLLINS** and a Polly **OWENS** (**COCHRAN** also added "**COLLINS?**" beside the name "**OWENS**", suggesting that he had a difficult time reading the last name of the bride). The date listed in **COCHRAN'S** book was "9 MAR 18\_\_" (suggesting, once again, that it was difficult to read), but it was among a list of marriages occurring in 1809, hence it appeared as though this may be the woman in the George **COLLINS'** households of 1810, 20 and 30. This made more sense than trying to claim that "Polly" was a nickname for "Abigail" and that Abigail's age had been recorded improperly decade after decade.

At this point, I tried to reconcile how George **COLLINS** could have had three marriages (to Mary **RICHARDS** in 1791, to Abigail **SMITH** in 1798 and to Polly **OWENS/COLLINS** in 1809) when his pension file (in 1831) said that he had nine small children from a second marriage. I thought that George might have stated that he had nine children by "another marriage" and that the clerk recording his testimony just assumed that George meant "a second marriage". Mrs. **TATTERSON** was perplexed as I was regarding these marriages and census records, but she thought that the idea of three marriages for George **COLLINS** was the better way of explaining the pattern in the data. However, this "theory" that I hatched was proven false years later by a couple of findings.

The first finding to clear-up matters was a letter written by Harvey Maxwell "Max" **COLLINS** of Bridgeport, WV (b. 1911, the son of Lorenzo Dow **COLLINS** and grandson of Hezekiah **COLLINS**). In his letter to Mrs. **CALLIHAN** dated February 17, 1991 regarding the **COLLINS** family history, Max **COLLINS** stated that George **COLLINS** was married twice and that he had ten children by each wife (which the reader will eventually see is surprisingly accurate for oral history).

The second finding that ended the confusion over the marriages of George **COLLINS** came from Bemie **CLARK** of Humble, Texas. It's a well known and accepted fact that George **COLLINS'** brother, John **COLLINS** Jr., left the Harrison/Lewis County area around 1817 and relocated in Warren County, Ohio. Many of John Jr.'s children followed him to Warren County, one of them

being John Jr.'s son, George (a nephew to the subject of this paper). In his research into the records of Warren County, Ohio, Mr. Clark has found where this George **COLLINS** was died in 1824, and that his wife's name was Abigail. His brother, Jacob **COLLINS**, was named as his estate executor. Bernie and I are quite certain that this is the George **COLLINS** who married Abigail **SMITH** in 1798, hence it rules out three marriages for "old George" **COLLINS** and accounts for the one marriage bond in Harrison County, WV for a George **COLLINS**.

There only seems to be one big question remaining about this second marriage for George **COLLINS**, and that is what is the maiden name of Polly? Was it **COLLINS** or **OWENS**? To add to the confusion, she appears to have used the name "Mary" later in life instead of "Polly" (this topic covered in a later section). It would be a great help for all descendants of George **COLLINS** if someone would attempt to locate the original marriage bond in the Harrison County courthouse and see if it is possible to determine what the last name of the bride is and the year of the bond.

#### THAT TROUBLESOME DATE-OF-DEATH

In her history of the **COLLINS** family, Clerissa **TATTERSON** stated that George **COLLINS** had died by September 4, 1833. She came to this conclusion after examining a photocopy of the jacket that covered George **COLLINS'** pension file, which made it appear as though the payments had stopped on this date. However, my research into George **COLLINS** found where he had signed deeds in 1835 and 1838 (recorded in Lewis County) and he seemed to be clearly listed as the head of a household in the 1840 census (and the family seemed to track back to the 1830 census). Mrs. **TATTERSON** was not easily persuaded to change her thinking on the death date as she was about a third marriage. She thought that the dates on the deeds might be misleading since they are can be recorded years later, so (in her estimation) that was not proof. She wasn't sure what to make of the 1840 census record other than to say that census enumerators often left much to be desired when it came to the quality of their work.

In spite of the fact that she was uncertain about the significance of the 1840 census record, Mrs. **TATTERSON** did some more research on George **COLLINS**. She wrote to me and said that she had found where his pension payments were discontinued effective March of 1835. She stated that if he was not deceased by March of 1835, then she was didn't know why the payments would have been stopped. I didn't have a good answer for her at that time, but I now have a good idea of why his pension payments were

stopped: he made a fraudulent claim and was caught, hence payments were ended (more on this later).

What is the significance of the date September 4, 1833? It is an accounting period. Pension payments were made semi-annually on March 4 and September 4 of each year. I have seen other pension jackets for other veterans whose known dates of death were in 1834 and 1845, and both of their jackets have this same date (September 4, 1833) as well. It appears that a good many pension certificates were issued in the summer of 1833 and Congress has stipulated that the first payment would include payments in arrears from March 4, 1831. Therefore, when the first payments were made, one line included the amount in arrears to the pensioner (from March 4, 1831 to March 4, 1833) as well as payment for the current period (summer 1833) which ended on September 4, 1833.

There is another reason to believe that George **COLLINS** lived beyond 1833. In his pension file is a slip of paper that reads "The original papers in this case sent to W.G. **SINGLETON**, U.S. Dist Atty. Va. Aug 5[?] 1834. No copies taken for want of time." If George were deceased by this time, then why would **SINGLETON** have been actively prosecuting him? Also, the pension file contains another document entitled "Report in the Case of George **COLLINS**. Fraud" which was written by Wm. G. **SINGLETON** on November 6, 1834. If George **COLLINS** were dead, I would have expected it to be a report in the case of "George **COLLINS**, deceased" or "George **COLLINS'** heirs". In addition to that, I believe that the dates on the deeds in Lewis County (1835 and 1838) are accurate as well as the 1840 census record.

There is one more reason (although it is not watertight) to believe that George **COLLINS** lived beyond 1833. In Hardesty's History of Ritchie County, it mentions that a George **COLLINS** moved into the Union District of Ritchie County in 1838. This matches the year that George sold his land to Manley, and it may mean that he moved from the Leading Creek area to Slab Creek in Ritchie County where Manley and George's widow, Mary/Polly, are found living in the 1850 census. The one reason we must be careful identifying this George **COLLINS** as our George **COLLINS** is that there was a different George **COLLINS** known as the Reverend George **COLLINS** who also was an early settler in the Union District but in a different locale than Slab Creek.

In summation, I have elected to represent George **COLLINS'** date of death as being between 1840 and 1850 since he appears in the 1840 census but is gone by the time of the 1850 census.

## THE STORY OF GEORGE COLLINS (AS BEST THAT CAN BE DETERMINED AT THIS TIME)

George **COLLINS** was born between 1760 and 1765 (using the dates from the census records and not the pension file). He was the son of John **COLLINS** and most likely was born in Hampshire County near the present-day town of Romney where his father had land. Mrs. **TATTERSON** noted that when John **COLLINS** Sr. sold some of his Hampshire County land in 1765, the deeds lacked a dower signature, which is a good indication that his wife had died by that time. George may very well have been the last of their family and it may also be that George's mother died not long after birthing him.

He most likely accompanied his father when he settled along the Cheat River in 1769. After that, George's movements are something of a mystery.

By his account in his pension application, George **COLLINS** joined the militia in New Jersey to fight in the Revolutionary War in 1777. Using the birth years obtained from the 1810 through 1840 census records, he would have been between the ages of 12 and 17 when he enlisted. This could have been possible, since some young men with romantic ideas of war are willing to lie about their age; furthermore, desperate recruiting officers have been known to look the other way concerning a recruit's shortcomings (age or otherwise). However, the story about being in the New Jersey militia seems to be a stretch as there is no reason to believe that he or his father went to New Jersey. It is a proven fact that his brother, John **COLLINS** Jr., went to New Jersey during the Revolutionary War since that is the place where his wife, Hannah **COZAD**, and her father Jacob **COZAD**, lived prior to the Revolution. The **COZADS**, being of Huguenot descent and living along the eastern seaboard, may have had no stomach for Indian Warfare and believed the British to be a more civilized adversary. John Jr. presumably would have moved with them for his wife's sake. It would be unlike a Scots-Irish family like the **COLLINS** to run from a fight, and the Scots-Irish were very adept at fighting the Indians. Why would George tag along with his older brother to New Jersey? Wouldn't have John Jr. found him a nuisance? Where was John Sr. during the war? John Sr's son, Thomas, who was a bona fide Revolutionary War veteran, served in forces from Virginia, not New Jersey. Hence, I cannot fathom how George would have honestly served in New Jersey during the war. I am partial to the notion that George picked up stories about New Jersey from his brother, John Jr., and thought that he could "spin a yarn" about serving in a New Jersey regiment and make it sound credible (thinking that no one in West Virginia would know much about New Jersey).

According to Clarissa's work, both George and his father, John, are listed in the 1785 census of Harrison County, as living in the West Fork settlement. In 1791, it is stated that he moved onto his father's property on Stoney Run of Hacker's Creek. Where George **COLLINS** prior to 1785 and between 1785 and 1791? A clue comes from Max **COLLINS'** letter to Mrs. **CALLIHAN** dated February 17, 1991, wherein he stated that George **COLLINS** came from Staunton, VA (note that he said that George **CAME** from Staunton, and didn't say that he was born there).

When he moved to his father's farm in 1791, he would have been between 26 and 30 years old and may have even married by this time (to Mary **RICHARDS**). It may have been around this time George **COLLINS** may have gone to school (and "may" cannot be emphasized enough as there is plenty of confusion). When William G. **SINGLETON** was building his case against George **COLLINS**, he called upon Susannah **MITCHELL** (born about 1782, the wife of John **MITCHELL** [1763-1840]) to testify against him. In her testimony, she claimed to have gone to school with George Collins. This assertion is fascinating since George **COLLINS** signed all of his paper with an "X" as though he were illiterate. Did he really go to school but lose the ability to write by having to work with his hands as a blacksmith? Was Susannah **MITCHELL** lying about George? Her maiden name was Susannah **WASHBURN**, and if it can be determined when and where she went to school, it may tell us something about George **COLLINS** during this period.

...to be continued in the next issue

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## **GUIDELINES FOR WRITING FOR THE HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL** *(continued from p. 6)*

9. **How to Submit:** We prefer documents created in either Word or Word Perfect and sent as e-mail attachments. However, persons who do not have a computer may submit typewritten articles. Long articles and photographs should be mailed on a disk or CD rather than via e-mail. Clearly identify the author on the disk label. Submit material to:

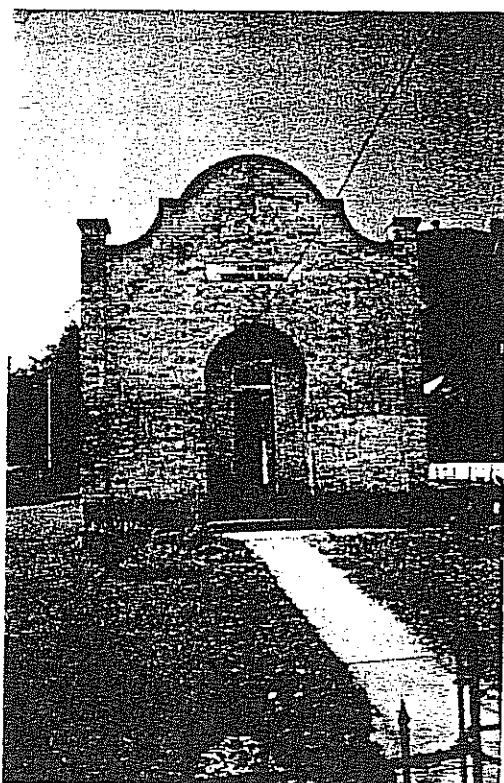
**HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL**  
45 Abbotts Run Road, Homer WV 26372

Phone: (304) 269-7091 e-mail: [queries@hackerscreek.com](mailto:queries@hackerscreek.com)

# BLACK HISTORY IN LEWIS COUNTY

by Joy GILCHRIST-STALNAKER

Across the USA, February is recognized as Black History Month. Though the black population of Lewis County never numbered many, even in anti-bellum times, their impact on local life was significant. More importantly, there were few race relations problems in the county.



Colored School in 1992

and thanked him.

In July 1892, when Weston was a "wild and woolly" town, a drunk and quarrelsome Edgar JONES, a young black man only recently arrived from Charleston, entered the kitchen at the Commercial Hotel (where Angotti's Pool Room was recently located) and fatally wounded Michael TIERNEY. Two days later, a lynch mob formed, stormed the jail and took Jones to the West Second Street bridge where they hanged him from the frame work of the new iron bridge. It was the last, if not the only, public lynching in the county.

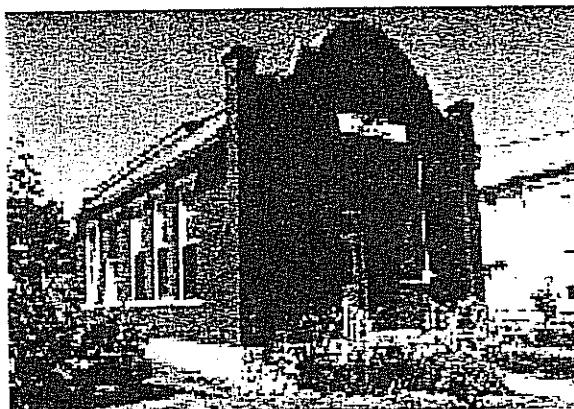
The first of their race in the county were the slaves of some of the early families. Robinson, a slave of Col. Edward **JACKSON**, escorted young Tom Jackson when he left the county for West Point in 1842. Young Tom later became known as "Stonewall."

Another, called "Black Peter" by those who knew him, served as manservant to Captain William **ROACH** of Georgetown. Sometimes the captain would sample too much of the fermented fruit. One night the captain became surly and belligerent. Peter cold-cocked him. The next day, Captain **ROACH** called Peter to his room.

Peter, expecting a dressing down, approached reluctantly; instead, the captain gave him a dram of whiskey

Prior to the Civil War, it was unlawful for black children to be educated in West(em) Virginia; and, the first state constitution (1863) failed to address their public education. Though the revised constitution of 1866 addressed the issue, Lewis County had too few blacks scattered over to broad an area to qualify for a school.

Benjamin OWENS, then editor of the Weston Sentinel, founded a school in an abandoned church at the extreme head of Main Avenue. Owens and then Miss Bird JODON were the teachers.



By 1881, there were enough black children within the Weston Independent School District to comply with a newly reduced requirement of fifteen students. The District began construction of a brick building on Lot No. 22 of Center Street (now 345 Center Street). The school opened in 1882.

School as it appears today

The building, with some renovations in the 1920s, served the black children of the county until February 26, 1954, when it was closed because of the small attendance and impending desegregation laws. The two remaining students, Mary QUEEN and Frieda PERKINS, entered St. Patrick's School.

The first teacher at the school was George T. JONES, an Ohio-born mulatto, who taught for several terms. He later entered the ministry and was a guest editor of the Martinsburg "Free Press."

The most dedicated teacher was Sir Leroy O. WILSON who taught there from 1898 to 1918, except for a three-year stint as Law Librarian at the West Virginia State Law Library in Charleston. His position in Charleston was the highest attained by any black man in the state at that time. Though honored by that position, he preferred teaching the children of Weston and returned here where he died in the influenza epidemic in February 1918 at the age of forty-seven.

The last teacher at the school was Perry ARTERS who later became the first black instructor at Alderson-Broaddus College, Philippi.

After the school's closing in 1954, it served in various capacity. In 1992 it became the Central West Virginia Genealogy and History Library, who facilitated its placement on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. In 1996 when the library outgrew the space, the Lewis County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce moved in. It still serves them today.



Charles Homer **QUEEN** and Melvin **COSTON** were drafted into the Army in June 1942, becoming the first blacks from Lewis County to enter World War II.



Students in  
1932.

# UNDERSTANDING THEIR TIMES: OUR ANCESTORS' EVERYDAY LIFE

by Don Moore

This article was originally published in the September 2001 edition of *The Iowan*, publication of the Scott County Iowa Genealogical Society. It appears here with permission of the author.

While names and dates and relationships tell us who our ancestors were, they do little to tell us how our ancestors lived. Most history books concentrate on the "important" things - like battles, politics, explorations, and inventions. That's great if your ancestor took part in one of these major events. But, most of our ancestors lived simple lives and did simple things. Simple things are not the stuff of history books. That's why a few years ago I was so pleased to come across *The Everyday Life in America Series*. The books in the series are:

- HAWKE, David Freeman. Everyday Life in Early America. Harper & Row. 1988. (Covers the 1600s.)
- WOLF, Stephanie Grauman. As Various as Their Land: The Everyday Lives of Eighteenth-Century Americans. Harper & Row. 1993. (Covers the 1700s.)
- LARKIN, Jack. The Reshaping of Everyday Life: 1790-1840. Harper & Row.
- SUTHERLAND, Daniel E. The Expansion of Everyday Life: 1860-1876. Harper & Row, 1989.
- SCHLERETH, Thomas J. Victorian America. Harper & Row. (Covers 1876-1910.)
- GREEN, Harvey. The Uncertainty of Everyday Life, 1915-1945. Harper & Row.

Each book is divided into chapters by theme. For example, the first book in the series includes chapters on The Farm, The House, The Home, Health, Manners and Morals, War, and Beyond the Farm (towns), among others. These books are about mundane details, like what people ate at each meal. It's not exciting riveting history, like Paul Revere's ride or Lewis & Clark. But these books are relevant to everyone's ancestors. In addition to learning new things about how people used to live, the books correct a lot of misconceptions we have. For example, Hawke points out that common beliefs about mortality rates

for infants and women in child birth, and short life expectancies in general in early America, have been very much exaggerated. And, he cites the research that proves it.

In one of my favorite passages, Hawke describes towns of the 1600s:

"...the townspeople ... walked to and from work... The church bell resounded in their ears throughout the week. Market day occurred regularly ... and fairs, too, became fixtures on the calendar. Houses were jammed close together and no one who desired it wanted for companionship. The hogs that ran wild in the streets evoked no comment, nor did the stench from accumulated garbage... Townspeople lived their days amid the noise of clanging hammers, the rumblings of carts and wagons, the squalling of children - all of which sounded like music after a trip to the country, where only twittering birds relieved the silence." (p 155)

The authors are all respected historians of their particular time periods. But, as each book is written by a different author, the style varies. Hawke was a very easy read, so it is a good one to start with (besides, it is the first one chronologically). Likewise, Wolf was an easy read. Sutherland, while more detailed, was a lot more academic in style and sometimes bogged down. Schlereth was easy to relate to, since so much of our modern life began during that period. As the author points out, it is when we moved from an economy of scarcity (everything hand-made and expensive) to an economy of abundance (everything mass-produced and cheap). This baby-boomer really liked Greene's book since it helped me understand my grandparents' times better.

Many libraries have copies of one or more of these books. If your local library doesn't have one, see the librarian about an interlibrary loan request. They are well worth the extra effort.

# FRUIT RAIDS, COPPERHEADS AND MOONSHINE MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN BRAXTON COUNTY

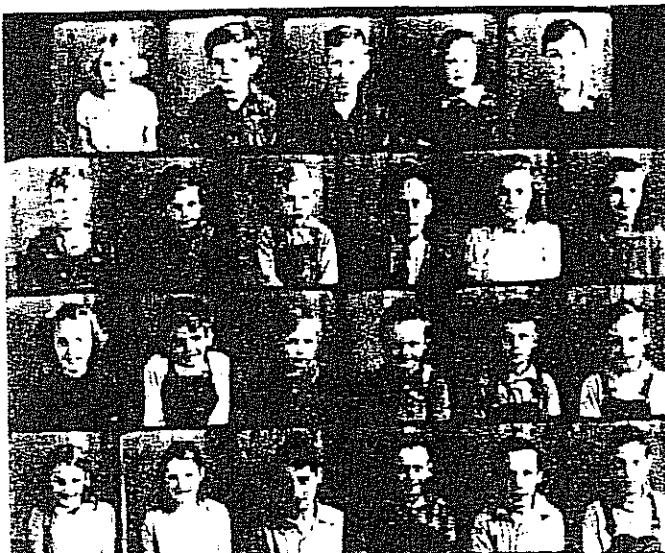
## Part One

by David D. "Lane" **MALCOMB**  
Submitted by his daughter, Nancy **MALCOMB**

I was born along the Holly River, in Holly, West Virginia, on October 26, 1932. My parents were Marvin Joseph (Preach) and Ercil Isis (LAKE) **MALCOMB**. I was the third of six children to be born to them. My siblings being Martha Geneva (Neva), Charles Woodrow (Bub), Virginia Emogene (Dood), John Camden (Cam), and Janey Lew. They called me Lane.

I went through the sixth grade at the Kanawha Run School in Holly. I spent the seventh and eighth grades at the school in Newville. I disagreed with my folks

when I was growing up. When the first opportunity came along to leave, I left. I added a year to my age, got my folks to sign it as fact, and went into the Air Force. That was a big turning point in my life. I joined the US Air Force on June 1, 1949, when I was only 16 years old.



Picture circa 1940 or 1941. Top Row: Virginia Emogene "Dood" **MALCOMB**<sup>1</sup>, Loman **WILLIAMS**, Harold Eugene "Kayo" **BRIGHT**<sup>1</sup>, Billie June "Bunny" **MAYSE**<sup>1</sup>, Billy **GRIMM** 2nd Row: Harold **GILLESPIE**, Freda **WILLIAMS**, Sylvester **GILLESPIE**, teacher Walter **KNICELEY**, Nelva **GREGORY**<sup>1</sup>, Marjorie **GROFF** 3rd Row: Patty Ann **MAYSE**, Virgil "Superman" **WILLIAMS**<sup>1</sup>, Darryl **GILLESPIE**, Carl **WILLIAMS**, David Delano "Lane" **MALCOMB**, Clarice **KNICELEY** 4th Row: Rosie **GILLESPIE**, Martha Geneva "Neva" **MALCOMB**, Boyd **GRIMM**, Charles Woodrow "Bub" **MALCOMB**, Burton Grimm, James **GILLESPIE**

When my daughter decided to put together a family tree in the fall of 2001, I found myself remembering my early life, and the people I knew as I grew up, in Braxton County, West Virginia. My memory is not the best, some people may get left out, and a lot of people I know only by their nicknames, but here is what life was like, during the 1930's and 1940's, in Holly and Newville, West Virginia.



David AKA Lane  
Malcomb 1949—the day  
he entered the Air Force

Growing up during the Great Depression was quite a challenge. Education was limited in the area at that time. Jobs and money were also limited. We were smart enough to know we were poor and not living too "high on the hog". Our entire community was poor.

When I was a kid, we went on fruit raids and stole apples, peaches, cherries, plums, watermelons, musk melons, corn, potatoes, and just about anything else that was edible. We would meet up at May CHANDLER'S house and feast until daylight. One time one of my brothers stole Mom's chickens and went to Dommie's house for a feast. Bub stole a boat that we speared fish out of one summer. My dad would get mad at

me if I saw a squirrel or rabbit and shot it before he got a chance. We killed several deer illegally and ate them. We did a lot of illegal things to survive, such as hunting and fishing out of season. We ate a lot of wild game: woodchucks, rabbits, squirrels, and fish. Legally or illegally gotten, we survived.

When I was 7 and my brother Bub was 8, we were put in the fields to work like adults. Other than having a mule, everything else was done by hand. You might say we dug it out of the dirt. When other kids got out of school for the summers to play and take it easy we had 3 months hard work ahead. Other than working all day in the field we had chores to do before and after school. It was a year round set up. We got up in the mornings, fed the hogs, cows, chickens and the mule. In the evenings, we had the same thing to do over plus bringing wood, coal and water into the house. On weekends, we sawed and split wood. On several occasions each year we worked all day on Sundays. Other than working in the fields, we picked apples and other fruits other people gave us. We made oak splits and did chair bottoms. We also made oak split egg baskets. Everything stayed on course till our house burnt in the fall of 44. We spent the winter in Grayce's old house. In April we bought a larger farm about two miles up on the hill away from the river in the community of Newville. Everything changed; it was a new adventure. I was 12 and Bub 13 years old

when we got a team of horses and, with our neighbors Everet **ROGERS** and Jess **MOORE**, we got our farming underway. Everything went along at an even pace till I got out of grade school at age of 14. Neva went to high school a year and started the next before dropping out. Bub started to high school then dropped out in the first year. When it came my turn to go to high school my parents said No! I was needed to work on the farm. With our small set up I didn't see too bright of a future. We had 105 acres of land of which one half was wooded, 2 horses, 10 – 12 head of cows, 10 – 12 head of hogs and 200-300 chickens. We sold cream and eggs. At best it was just eking out a living. In the fall of '48, after we finished building the house and farm buildings, I went to work for Von Floyd cutting timber and working on the sawmill. After a month or so they fired me. The cook's husband didn't like me so it was back home again. I survived the winter and when the hard work started in the spring with no pay, I decided I was going to make my get away forever. I joined the Air Force. I spent very little time at home from that day on. Bub stayed on the farm till he got drafted during the Korean War. He came back home after serving in Korea and tried to farm. Buying more machinery but that didn't help. He finally saw the light and took off on his course for the future. He came to Lockport, NY in '57. He got a job working for Corson's Manufacturing Company. He worked there for 37 years. At his funeral they had his hours worked totaled, then figured if he had worked 8 hours a day 5 days a week from the day he was born he would have 71 years seniority. He died of cancer at the age of 67.

When Grandma **MALCOMB** went to bed at night she heated flat irons, rolled them in old rags, and put them at the foot of her bed to keep her feet warm. One night they caught fire while she was sleeping and burnt a hole about a foot or so in size in the end of her mattress.

My Grandma was so ornery she would take spells and not speak to you or acknowledge you were there. Sometimes they would last all summer. I don't remember my Granddad saying more than a dozen or two words to her while I grew up. She used square snuff and spit just like a man. She had long hair that she braided and rolled atop her head with long hairpins shoved through it. My Dad inherited her traits for being ornery.

Grandma **MALCOMB** told me she couldn't get my dad to go to school. When she tried, he would hop up on the fence and start whistling. She also said Dad and Connie were the black sheep of her family.

My Granddad **MALCOMB** sat on the porch wearing long underwear, moleskin pants, a plaid lumberman's shirt, Stetson hat and patent leather shoes when it was 85 degrees out. He also sat there staring out across the river without

moving for long periods of time. It befuddled me; I asked a neighbor if there was something wrong with him? He said, "No, he was just resting."

Granddad **MALCOMB** was night watchman at the sawmill at Oakrun. They used to get up in the log train engine and get drunk. One time, he fell out and broke his hip, long about 1935. Never worked again after that and had to use a cane to get around after that. He lived on welfare awhile, then social security.

Granddad **MALCOMB** had a 3-wheeled contraption that he called a wheel. Two wheels went on one train track, the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the other, and it had pedals to make it go. Granddad could out pedal the log trains with it. Used to ride it to work and back.

Granddad used to tell me about how back at the turn of the century, he saw muskies 4 to 5 feet long in the Holly River in front of his house.

Granddad **LAKE** came to our house on several occasions. He had his belongings in a fruit jar box with a heavy cord tied around it with a sapling run through the cord so he could carry it over his shoulder. Then stay till him and my Dad got to arguing over politics. He would get mad load his box up and take out walking. He wouldn't show up again for a year or so. He couldn't get along with anybody. It was his way or else. He was quite stubborn.

We canned gallons of blackberries every year. Made sauerkraut, pickled beans, corn, beets, salt pork, etc. We canned apples, cherries, peaches, plums, etc., and made jellies and jams. We canned tomatoes, green beans, and pork sausage. We ate flour gravy and corn mush. We butchered our own hogs, and owned a mule, which Dad shot when it was 38 years old.

When blackberry time came my mother would don a pair of my dad's bib overalls, then climb up about 300 yards along the hill to Gilmer Cutlip's land, pick several gallons of blackberries, then come down carrying two ten quart buckets, while walking on a crutch. I remember when Neva was 14 years old my Mom outran her on level land then beat her ass for something she had done. On several occasions, Mom would carry two ten-quart buckets of eggs to the Palmer Store, a distance of about two miles with out taking a break.

My mom could read and write. She had her schoolbooks at home. One was called "The McGuffey Reader". I don't remember my dad ever reading. He could count, and he could sign his name. He didn't have to make an "X" like most old people did.

When Mom was young, Granddad LAKE loaded their belongings into a wagon with one horse and moved to Louisa County, just outside of Richmond VA. He grew tobacco and sold it in Richmond. It took them two weeks to make the trip one way between WV and VA. They made the trip on two different occasions. They slept under the wagon on quilts laid on the ground. Mom wore out her shoe every trip. She walked with a crutch, so only one foot was actually walking. Finally, they stayed put in Lewis County, WV. Granddad LAKE was always moving around. Mom remembered one year, they moved 7 times.

Dad used to play the fiddle. Buck played the guitar. Dominick (Elihue's brother) played the mandolin. Granddad played the fiddle. They used to get together at one house or another and play and folks would come and sit and listen to the music.

A dry pole was laying way up against the hill behind our house. It was real hot just before a rain. Dad sent Bub and me up to get it. We kept stopping to rest. When we got almost to the pole Dad yelled to come back down. Then he sent us to bed without any supper. He told us anybody that damn trifling didn't need anything to eat.

One morning the temperature was about 65. We went to school without coats or shoes. It clouded up and started snowing about noon. By the time school let out there were several inches on the ground. We had 1-½ miles to get home. We ran all the way. We got home without serious damage with cold feet.

Kayo was older and bigger than Bub and me. We were always looking up to Kayo for leadership and new ideas. When he was 15 years old he weighed 155 pounds and was six feet tall, wore a size 8 hat and number 12 shoes. When I was 52 inches tall I weighed 52 pounds. When I was 12 years old I weighed 79 pounds. When I was 16 years old I weighed 124 pounds. Bub and Dad weighed 114 pounds. Today 2002 I weigh 185 pounds. Neva weighted 122 pounds at the same time back then.

Dad had an old Model T car that he converted to a truck we used for hauling rocks out of our river bottom and dumping over the riverbank. He finally traded it for 4 tons of coal, delivered. Coal cost \$5 a ton back then. Delivery was by horse and wagon, one ton at a time.

We went through the woods and dug ginseng and golden seal, and some snakeroot, usually on Sunday mornings and caught woodchucks for dinner.

During the war, when Artie lived with Grayce, she was like a second mother to us. She brought us secondhand clothes to wear. And took us to the Social Happenings at school and other things in the area at that time. We picked apples and other fruits with Artie. Patty Ann would push Artie's son, David, around in a wheelbarrow. When Artie's son, Budge Jr., was 9 months old, he weighed 27 pounds.

One Friday night they were having a shindig at the school. Kayo, Bub and me were on our way to the shindig. He had Bub and me cut clubs along the road, then we were to get on each side of him. If we met anybody that put out their arms toward Kayo we were to hit them across the arms with the clubs. We went up the road a short distance and met my Dad coming home from work in the dark. We almost clubbed him, then he spoke we recognized him and put our clubs down, then went on our way.

One day Parsh, Neva, Bub and me came upon Jim **BRIGHT**'s cherry trees upon the hill behind his house. We ate our fill. We went back the next day. We came back the third day. They had picked all the cherries, but there was a gray squirrel there. Parsh took after it. He ran it down before it got to the woods. He was long legged and quite thin. When we got back home we told Dad about Parsh's feat. Parsh was forever bragging about his square shoulders and how wide they were. Dad said "Parsh, when they turn you around sideways you are so thin you would have to drink muddy water just to make a shadow".

When my Dad, Kayo and me came toward home with a horse we had just bought off of Green's on Old Woman Run, we got to the Morrison Ridge Church, at a fork in the road. It was a two-track dirt road through the woods. It was a shorter distance. Dad decided he was going to ride the horse down the short cut. He was so drunk I don't know how he kept from falling off the horse. He told Kayo and me to stay on the main road and he would meet us in Newville. We were there  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before he showed up. He had about 1 mile less to travel. I don't know if he fell off the horse or what.

Buck made moonshine. Maude **BRAGG** turned him in and he served 6 months in jail. There was a lot of bickering in the families at Holly in the 1930's and 40's. Buck and Bill Barto got caught dynamiting fish in the Holly River in the late 40's. Bade **MALCOMB** turned them in.

When Buck was making moonshine, he soaked his fruit jars in the river. One day he was washing them out, he left them full of water and was carrying them up the road when he met Jim **BRAGG** and Hot **GILLISPIE**. They asked, "What have you got in those jars there Buck?" Buck said, "it's just pure old Holly

River water." Knowing that Buck made moonshine they said "we will give you \$5 for them". Buck sold them the river water. That could be the reason he got caught and spent time in jail. Jim BRAGG was Maude's brother-in-law and Hot GILLISPIE was Maude's son-in-law.

In the late 1940's, we walked the railroad up Elk River to Centralia to watch the ball games. On the way home, we climbed aboard the train when it stopped to take on water. The cars had all size granules of coal on the train. Some they called Bug Dust. Between the smoke and Bug Dust, we looked like darkies at the end of the ride. We jumped off the train when it slowed to cross the bridge over the Elk River at Holly Junction. Then we swam in the river until we got most of the dirt off, before heading home. We had four miles to go to get home from there, so we would be dry by the time we got home.

In the mid 30's my Dad worked for the WPA. He went to work wearing Oxford shoes and no boots in extreme winter conditions. He walked five miles each way to work. He had his lunch stolen several times.

One time Neva, Bub and me were peeking through the cracks in the cellar house wall when I stepped on a big Copperhead snake. We ran and told Mom. By the time she got there the snake had gone down into the rocks where she couldn't get a hoe in to kill it. Our dog stuck his nose in a hole and the snake bit him. Mom put a teakettle on the stove and got it real hot. She poured hot water down a hole on top of the snake. The dog swelled up around the neck. Later we came out and the snake was stretched out between the cellar and the well, dead with its skin peeling off.

We had a swinging footbridge across the river. Kayo, Bub and me swam naked about one hundred yards above the bridge. Neva, Patty Ann and Artie would come out on the bridge and hoot and holler at us.

When Mom's dad and his second wife split up, him and some of his kids came to live with our family. They stayed all summer. Granddad had a country store back then, when he closed it down he brought the items he couldn't sell to our house. I remember a coffee grinder, an apple peeler, a cherry pitter and other odds and ends. There were plenty of bars of soap.

At Kayo's house they had wood stacked on the porch. Kayo and Grandma got to arguing. He started to mimic her, then she threw wood at him, he ducked behind the lilac bush. She threw almost all the wood at him. Then Granddad came along and made him put all the wood back on the porch.

Hot **GILLISPIE** came by our house from work with my Dad. While they were gabbing, Bub and me were listening in on what they were talking about. There was a pot of potato peels, coffee ground and scraps from the table to feed the hogs. It was setting in the sun and was bubbling like it was fermenting. Dad looked at the pot then looked at Hot, winked his eye and said "tomorrow we will run us off a batch". The next day Bub and me got some cloth and strained us two bottles full. Bub had his in a mineral oil bottle. I had mine in a whiskey bottle. Bub hid his in the barn under the hay like Dad did. I hid mine in a spring along the farm lane. Soon Kayo came down the road. We yelled over for him to come on over, that we had some moonshine hid. We took him to the barn, Bub dug his out of the hay, Kayo drank a big swig, wiped his mouth, then says "Hell Bub its got coffee grounds in it". We took him over to the spring, I lifted my bottle out of the water, Kayo took a big swig, then says "By god Lane yours has coffee grounds in it too". We told Mom that Kayo had drank the hog slop. She laughed like hell.

We had a barn with high rafters in the loft. Kayo, Bub and me would climb up in the loft, pull the ladder up, take off our clothes, and then swing on the rafters like Tarzan. Bunny and Dood stole our clothes and gave them to Mom. Bub and me just climbed down from the loft and got our clothes. Kayo being older and bigger stayed in the barn and yelled at my Mom to make the girls bring his clothes back. I don't remember how he retrieved them.

Kayo played at our house a lot. One morning he came over to play, we had a hand garden plow that we turned upside down. Kayo would put one of us on it and pushed us around the house, making a noise like a truck. Mom had old hens with chicks sitting on the path. Kayo ran over them and killed some chicks. Mom came out and beat his ass.

On Thanksgiving Day November 22, 1944 we were butchering a hog, Kayo looked up at our house and said it was on fire. It burnt completely down. All our winter provisions were lost. We stayed at our Granddad's house a few days until Grayce **MAYSE** moved to Sutton. Them we moved into Grayce's house on Granddad's farm. We lost \$935 in cash in the fire. When Granddad moved out of his house, Boy Hosey moved into it. Then it burned. He said he thinks someone burnt him out.

When we walked along the road at night we could tell who was making Moonshine Whiskey. You could see their fires in the woods behind their houses. Bub came upon a still one time he stole the copper coiled tubing they used to condense the steam with. It laid around our house till I left home in '49. My Dad made Moonshine but he never got caught.

When I was young, we sledged fish. We would walk along on the ice over shallow water. When we spotted a fish, we would hit the ice above it. If silt boiled out from under it, we knew we had him. Then we would cut a hole in the ice and lift him out with a bent coat hanger. Got mostly Hog Suckers and Chubs. We ate them. My dad speared fish by the washtub full. Usually Red Horse, Quill Back Suckers, and sometimes, Big Mouth Buffalo.



David AKA Lane Malcomb  
2002

At our house on Holly River we killed several copperheads and rattlesnakes. There is a cliff behind the house where the snakes came down from into our yard. Bob Ocheltree made belts out of their skins. We saved the rattles in a canning jar. They burnt when our house went up in flames. We rendered the fat down into oil. The near deaf people came and got it to pour in their ears. It was supposed to cure deafness. It must have been just another old wives tale. I don't remember anyone getting their hearing back. There was a lot of homegrown medicines back then. None of them ever amounted to too much. There were a lot of superstitions back then.

When we moved from Holly to Newville, Bub and me thought our fishing was about over. We soon figured out how we could work on the farm and fish too. Every evening when Dad got home from work he took us out and assigned how much work he wanted done the next day. We got up at 4 am. We were in the fields before daylight. We would go like hell till we got done; sometimes it was shortly after noon. We would grab our fishing poles and head for the river. Then spend the whole afternoon fishing. We saw lots of big fish. Back then we mostly caught small ones.

Dad worked from about 1938 to 48 for the Monongahela Power Company; before that he worked for the WPA. In 1948 they went on strike to establish a Union. The company got an injunction against them, the courts ruled against the workers. They hired Scabs and fired the regular workers. Dad never had a steady job after that. He did handyman work for neighbors and settled down on the farm.

In 1948 after my dad lost his job, Dad, Bub and me built a seven room farm house, a barn, corncrib, chicken house, tool house and out house. I took my

grandson Dan to see where I lived in the past, it was about ten years ago, and everything was deteriorating. Things looked kinda tough around there.

I visited my Granddad **MALCOMB** at Buck's house while on leave in the spring of 1950. Shortly after I went back to base he died. He was in his 80's.

The last time I saw Budge and Paul **MAYSE**, my first cousins, "The Duo Entertainers" known as Budge and Fudge the **MAYSE** Brothers was at a school in Burnsville, W VA in 1953 when Bant and me went to the show. It was the only time I ever attended one of their shows. They had Cindy **COY** and a man without any arms that laid his guitar down on the stage, then sat on a chair and played the guitar with his toes. He also signed autographs with his toes. That year I moved to Lockport, N.Y. and lost contact with most of my relations. My life was forever changed on that move.

When I sit around daydreaming and think about my childhood, the poverty and tough times, the running free, the hard work, the instinct to survive I still have fond memories of the good times and the adventure of living in a semi-wild era in Braxton County. During the 30's and 40's we were almost uncivilized.

It seems odd to grow old. Things that use to get you all excited just don't mean that much today. It's in the past. You have done all the interesting things. I would rather sit around and rest like Granddad **MALCOMB** did, but without all those clothes on.

...to be continued in the next issue

### Top Ten Ways to Tell You're a Genealogist

10. You talk about towns no one has ever heard of.
- 9. You take a trip to Salt Lake City in winter and don't ski.
- 8. You read **EVERY Roots-L Posting**.
- 7. You never leave home without \$4 in quarters.
- 6. You call ATM's "stamp machines".
- 5. You've memorized the counties, their seats, and their addresses for three states.
- 4. You KNOW that people who have been dead for 200 years are laughing at you.
- 3. You visit cemeteries carrying food and cosmetics.
- 2. You check out office supply stores "just looking".
- 1. You've changed computer programs three times this year.

## ODE TO A PIONEER

FOR PATTY

By Paul PETTIT

Welcome to every Pioneer,  
Tell of happiness swish'ere,  
And there- glorious days forecome,  
When Appalachia was first our home.  
Muster, great souls of the past,  
And those encircled by those that last;  
From vines and winds of Shenandoe.  
To where Hackers waters flow,  
From the forests and runs of the river Cheat,  
Within the towering peaks we meet.

Welcome, like days in lovely June,  
When forests wave and orchards bloom,  
Ye hilldale farmers, brave and loyal,  
And noble friends from Pt. Royal;  
Welcome old friends so leal and kind,  
To sing the days of "Auld lang syne;"  
The days of wolves and Yankee doodle,  
Tidewater stock and german streudle.  
Welcome, all who struck the sturdy strokes,  
From burgs, and towns among the Oaks.

Withers and Tetricks record her struggles,  
In early days of parson buckles.  
Ladies, unroll the page of knowledge,  
By love and labor of the collage;  
With Jackson's worthy cause advancing,  
Shout ye Methodists of dancing.  
Those - fought the grand western war,  
When Lowther stormed the river bar.  
Miss Straley tells of days selected,  
Since first she saw and recollected

When the only shelter from a shower,  
Was the house of Lady Brower.  
Cheat Forks Baptists dined on bear,  
The legends sung for all to hear  
Welcome from West fork river,  
The Potomac men forever;  
Welcome Western Water Pioneers,  
Coldwater and the cup that cheers.  
Welcome to all the silver grays,  
To talk of happy, early days.

When in the hills we worked and sung,  
When hope was high and life was young.  
Some dear, delightful friends have gone,  
Leaving our hearts so sad and lone.  
While love does warm these hearts of ours,  
In thoughts we strew their lives -with flowers.  
Dear, good, old friends so tried and true,  
We bid you all a kind adieu.  
The tryst is at the golden spring,  
Where love and life will fade no more.

Christmas 2004

# REUNIONS

## **DECENDANTS OF PETER F. CORK REUNION**

Doddridge County Park (Snowbird exit off Route 50) Sat July 30th at 12 pm. Bring covered dish and an item for an auction (to raise money for next years reunion) All Cork descendants & friends welcome. This reunion is always held the last Saturday of July every year. I live in Connecticut and go every year. They have a lot of Corks traveling from different states.

If you need more information, please contact me and I will give you the person to contact. You do not have to make reservations. Just come and have a great time.

Charlotte ZITO, 130 Spithead Rd, Waterford, CT 06385  
[ceesee@ctol.net](mailto:ceesee@ctol.net), PH: 860-447-0544

## **ALL STALNAKER FAMILY DESCENDANTS INVITED**



Are you missing from this picture of the 2004 STALNAKER REUNION? Was great-great grandmother Sara a Stalnaker? Does even one drop of Stalnaker blood course through your veins? Can you trace any of your ancestry to Captain Samuel STALNAKER who settled on the upper Holston River in Virginia in the 1740s? His son Jacob (usually called Jacob Sr.) married Elizabeth TRUBY, daughter of John TRUBY. Their known children: Jacob Jr. m. Eleanor TRUBY, Sebastian m Margaret HAMILTON; Valentine 1/m Catherine PARSONS and 2/m Lucretia JENKINS; Samuel m Susannah RADCLIFFE; John m Margaret WHITE; Adam m Catherine WHITMAN; Andrew m Catherine MARTENEY; William m Margaret McHENRY; Katherine

1/m Capt. John **WHITE** and 2/m Matthew **WHITMAN**; Levi may have been killed by Indians – no other record; Mary – no record. Additionally, Nancy **STALNAKER** who m Capt. James **BOOTHE** was either a sister of Jacob Sr. or a daughter.

You are invited to the Stalnaker Family Association Reunion,

Date: Sunday July 10, 2005

Place: Camp Pioneer, Rt. 1, Box 24, Beverly, WV 26253

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bring a covered dish.

This year we will continue working on a rewrite of "A Chronology of the Stalnaker Family in America."

For further information, contact:

Ed **STALNAKER**, [edstalnaker@webtv.net](mailto:edstalnaker@webtv.net), president

Or

Joy **STALNAKER**, [joy@hackerscreek.com](mailto:joy@hackerscreek.com), secretary  
213 Linger Run Road, Homer, WV 26372 ph 304-452-8495

## ***ROHRBOUGH REUNION***

The descendants and friends of Jacob Burton **ROHRBOUGH** will hold the annual reunion on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. The reunion will be held at Dodge Park in Beverly, Ohio. The custom of a covered dish dinner will be held at about 1:00 p.m. Games will be held and an auction will be conducted.

Mr. Rohrbough was raised in Braxton County and moved to Morgan County, Ohio in 1935. Jacob Burton is a descendant of Anthony **ROHRBOUGH** who settled near present Buckhannon in 1797.

For additional information contact:

John L. **LOYD**  
Rt. 4, Box 152A  
Philippi, WV 26416  
Phone 304 457 3063  
Email: [borica2@bcnemail.org](mailto:borica2@bcnemail.org)

## ***LOYD/LLOYD JUNE 5, 2005***

The Annual Loyd \ Lloyd Reunion will be held Sunday, June 5, 2005 at Holly Gray Park. The park is on the airport road near Flatwoods in Braxton County.

The reunion is for the descendants of Issac Hyre **LOYD** and Eliza Loyd **SHAVER**, families and friends. Issac and Eliza came to Braxton County near Flatwoods with their mother Julia Ann **SIRK LOYD HYRE** in 1816. Issac married Catherine Mary **MCPHERSON** and settled near the present Loydsville United Methodist Church on Middle Fork of Cedar Creek. Eliza married Jacob **SHAVER** and settled near Exchange on the Middle Fork of Cedar Creek.

All descendants and friends are invited to the reunion. The custom of covered dish will be observed with dinner about 1:00 p.m. In addition to dinner the program will include a memorial service, introductions, pictures, renewing friendships, looking at pictures and memorabilia, and door prizes. Participants are invited to bring a gift for a door prize and memorabilia for viewing.

For more information contact:

John L. **LOYD**  
Rt. 4, Box 152A  
Philippi, WV 26416  
Phone - 304-457-3063  
E-mail: [bcnica2@bcnnetmail.org](mailto:bcnica2@bcnnetmail.org)

### **SIMS FAMILY REUNION**

*Sunday, August 7, 2005, 12 noon*

The descendants of Alonzo Van Buren **SIMS** and his wife, Gertrude **CHITTUM SIMS** as well as any descendants from their parents Alfred and Manerva **HINZMAN SIMS** and Wesley T. and Talitha Jane **ALKIRE CHITTUM**, all cousins, and allied families are invited and urged attend the annual family reunion ion the picnic shelter beside the Mitchell Cemetery at Stonewall Jackson Lake on Route 19 South of Weston. Bring your lawn chairs and, if not traveling from too great a distance, a covered dish. For further information, contact Elizabeth **SIMS LAYTON**, 120 Shawnee Way, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

# DESCENDANTS OF SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

by Don Norman

## 1. SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

Solomon B. **TOWNSEND** was born in Bath County VA about 1796. He married Margaret **HACKER** October 19, 1815. Margaret, a daughter of William and Mary Adah (WEST) **HACKER**, was born February 18, 1796. Solomon and Margaret apparently separated about 1850. They are listed in the 1850 census of Gilmer County VA (WV) in separate households.

Solomon married Nancy (---) **CONRAD** about 1850. Nancy was born in Randolph County VA (WV) about 1824 and was a widow or divorcee. In the 1850 Gilmer County census, Solomon is listed as the head of household with Nancy Conrad and four Conrad children in residence.

Children of Solomon B. and Margaret (HACKER) **TOWNSEND**.

2. (1). Mary                    b. 1817  
                                  m. Samuel Ellis **STOUT** Oct 7 1842
3. (2). Levi                    b. 1819  
                                  m. Nancy ---
4. (3). Matilda                b.c. 1821  
                                  m. Noah **GREENLEAVES** Mar 11 1840
5. (4). John                    b.c. 1825  
                                  m. Eliza J. **BLAKE** Jan 16 1856  
                                  m. Susan **MEALEY**
6. (5). Solomon                b.c. 1833  
                                  m. Ellen **STOUT** Feb 7 1854  
                                  m. Rozella **HICKS** Dec 25 1871
7. (6). Nancy                   b.c. 1824  
                                  m. James Norman **SAMRR** Dec 6 1850
8. (7). Commodore Perry      b. Jun 11 1837 d. Dec 19 1898

m.Rebecca WILLIAMS May 2 1865

9. (8). Albert                    b.c.    1840

10. (9). George                b.c.    1842  
m.Columbia LOCKHART Feb 23 1868

Children of ----- and Nancy (---) CONRAD.  
(Step children of Solomon B. TOWNSEND.)

11. (1). Marshall                b.c.    1840

12. (2). Melissa                b.c.    1842

13. (3). Edward                b.c.    1846

14. (4). Marion                b.c.    1849

Children of Solomon B. and Nancy (---) [CONRAD] TOWNSEND.

15. (1). Elizabeth A.            b.c.    1852

16. (2). Jonathan                b.c.    1856

17. (4). Margaret                b.c.    1858

2.MARY TOWNSEND    1.SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

Mary TOWNSEND, a daughter of Solomon B. and Margaret (HACKER) TOWNSEND, was born in Harrison County VA (WV) in 1817. She married Samuel Ellis STOUT in Braxton County VA (WV) October 7, 1842. Samuel, a son of Daniel and Jemima STOUT, was born in Harrison County in 1813.

Known children of Samuel Ellis and Mary (TOWNSEND) STOUT.

18. (1). Martha                b.    1853

19. (2). Greenfield            b.Apr 29 1853

3.LEVI TOWNSEND    1.SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

Levi **TOWNSEND**, a son of Solomon B. and Margaret (**HACKER**) **TOWNSEND**, was born in Lewis County VA (WV) in 1819. He married Nancy - --. Nancy was born in Harrison County VA (WV) in 1819.

Children of Levi and Nancy **TOWNSEND**.

20. (1). Jackson b. 1845
21. (2). Minter b. 1845
22. (3). Almira b. 1851 d.Apr 1 1853
23. (4). Martha b.Apr 14 1853
24. (5). John b.Nov 8 1855 d.Dec 3 1856
25. (6). Samuel b.Jul 18 1858

4. **MATILDA TOWNSEND** 1. **SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND**

Matilda **TOWNSEND**, a daughter of Solomon B. and Margaret (**HACKER**) **TOWNSEND**, was born in Lewis County VA (WV) about 1821. She married Noah **GREENLEAVES** in Lewis County March 11, 1840. Noah, a son of George and Nancy Ann (**BARNES**) **GREENLEAVES**, was born in Lewis County March 14, 1813 and died in Gilmer County WV April 6, 1896.

Children of Noah and Matilda (**TOWNSEND**) **GREENLEAVES**.

26. (1). Franklin b. 1841  
m.Ellen **MARKS**  
m.Elizabeth **MARKS** May 17 1877
27. (2). Allen A. b. 1842  
m.Linda **RHODES**
28. (3). John W. b. 1845
29. (4). Samuel b. 1848  
m.Catharine **MARKS** May 8 1875
30. (5). Rebecca J. b. 1850

31. (6). Mary E.                    b.     1853

32. (7). William W.                b.Sep 4 1855  
m.Lydia —

33. (8). Minter J.B.                b.Dec 1 1857  
m.Sarah —

5.JOHN TOWNSEND 1.SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

John TOWNSEND, a son of Solomon B. and Margaret (HACKER) TOWNSEND, was born in Lewis County VA (WV) about 1825. He married Eliza J. BLAKE January 16, 1856. His second wife was Susan MEALEY. Susan, a daughter of George Washington and May (PECK) MEALEY, was born in Braxton County VA (WV) in 1857.

Children of John and Eliza J. (BLAKE) TOWNSEND.

34. (1). Margaret C.                b.     1856

35. (2). Commodore Perry            b.     1860

36. (3). Albert G.                 b.     1862

37. (4). Mary Jane                 b.     1862  
m.James A. BARNETT Apr 4 1889

38. (5). John J.                 b.     1864  
m.Margaret MEALEY  
m.Georgia WILSON

39. (6). William T.                b.     1869

40. (7). Margaret

41. (8). George

42. (9). Diana

Child of John and Susan (MEALEY) TOWNSEND.

43. (1). Rosa

m. John **ALKIRE**

6.SOLOMON TOWNSEND 1.SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

Solomon **TOWNSEND**, a son of Solomon B. and Margaret (**HACKER**) **TOWNSEND**, was born in Gilmer County VA (WV) in 1833. He married Eleanor "Ellen" **STOUT** in Gilmer County February 7, 1854. Ellen, a daughter of Hezekiah and Elizabeth (**ALEXANDER**) **STOUT**, was born in 1837 and died about 1860. Solomon moved to Wisconsin and married Rozella **HICKS** in Rich County, WS December 25, 1871.

Children of Solomon and Ellen (**STOUT**) **TOWNSEND**.

44. (1). Alfred	b.Dec 24 1855	d.Oct 16 1856
45. (2). Mary	b.May 12 1856	
46. (3). Richard	b. 1858	

Children of Solomon and Rozella (**HICKS**) **TOWNSEND**.

47. (1). Flora B.	b. 1873
48. (2). Warren A.	b. 1876

7.NANCY TOWNSEND 1.SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

Nancy **TOWNSEND**, a daughter of Solomon and Margaret (**HACKER**) **TOWNSEND**, was born in Lewis County Va about 1834. She married James Norman **SMARR** in Gilmer County VA December 6 1850. James, a son of Benjamin and Anna (**NORMAN**) **SMARR**, was born in Lewis County VA (WV) about 1833.

The family moved from Gilmer County WV to Braxton County WV after 1870. They are listed in the 1900 Braxton County WV census. They had been married 49 years. Nancy was the mother of 13 children, with 12, living.

Known children of James Norman and Nancy (**TOWNSEND**) **SMARR**.

49. (1). Matilda A.	b.c. 1852
50. (2). Mary	b.Jun 1854

51. (3). Rebecca                    b.c. 1857  
52. (4). Richard W.                b.Jun 1858  
53. (5). Jesse V.                b.May 1863  
m. Savanna —  
54. (6). Martha                b.c. 1866  
55. (7). John S.                b.c. 1867  
56. (8). Ellen                b. 1870  
57. (9). James T.                b.Feb 1880

8.COMMODORE PERRY TOWNSEND 1.SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

Commodore Perry TOWNSEND, a son of Solomon B. and Margaret (HACKER) TOWNSEND, was born in Harrison County VA (WV) June 11, 1837 and died in Wirt County WV December 19, 1898. He married Rebecca WILLIAMS in Wirt County May 2, 1865. Rebecca was born in Greenbrier County Va (WV) March 14, 1848 and died in Wirt County October 26, 1927.

Children of Commodore Perry and Rebecca (WILLIAMS) TOWNSEND.

58. (1). Victoria                b.c. 1868  
59. (2). Ellis E.                b.c. 1872  
m.Henrietta —  
60. (3). Claudie B.                b.Feb 1 1873  
61. (4). Thomas M.                b.Dec 13 1873 d.Aug 6 1952  
m.Annetta FOSTER May 30 1899

10.GEORGE TOWNSEND 1.SOLOMON B. TOWNSEND

George TOWNSEND, a son of Solomon B. and Margaret (HACKER) TOWNSEND, was born about 1842. He married Columbia LOCKHART February 23, 1868 in Wirt County WV. Columbia was born in Wirt County in 1848 and died there March 4, 1888.

Children of George and Columbia (LOCKHART) TOWNSEND.

62. (1). F.M. b. 1869

m. Annie OWENS Nov 13 1890

63. (2). Gracie b. 1871  
m. Andrew C. PYLES Oct 5 1890

64. (3). Claudie b. Feb 16 1873  
m. James L. DENT Dec 13 1890

65. (4). Georgia b. 1876  
m. S.H. MERRILL Oct 6 1898

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1850,1860 Gilmer County VA census

□

.. Genealogy Humor – One Liners ..

My family coat of arms ties at the back....is that normal?

My family tree is a few branches short! All help appreciated.

My ancestors must be in a witness protection program!

Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!

My hobby is genealogy, I raise dust bunnies as pets.

From: <http://mudfacemarge.com/Jokes1g.html>

# W. Va. Waters Owned By All

by Martha Bryson HODEL

*printed in The Dominion-Post, Morgantown, WV January 21, 2001*

CHARLESTON- Who owns West Virginia's waters?

The question intrigued Charleston lawyer Larry W **GEORGE** enough to spend six years researching an answer he had long suspected: We all do.

It is a legacy of the state's unique relationship with Virginia, from which it split during the Civil War, and dates further back to the common law of England that the states inherited at independence.

Though a stream's bank and bed can be privately owned. "The public's rights to use the watercourses are protected, and cannot be surrendered," George said.

His work, which tracks state land ownership law to its origin in English common law, has been published in the West Virginia Law Review and cited in legal opinions and reference works.

The citations could be the key to a federal appeals court if Richmond decides to send a pending strip mining lawsuit back to West Virginia to be resolved in state court. In that circumstance, his work "could become the dominant body of law that will control mountaintop mining," George said.

A former head of the state regulatory agency that governs mining and other uses of streams said George "has done a great public service" with the research.

"This has been needed for a long time," said David **CALLAGHAN** of Charleston, who served as head of mining regulatory agencies under several Democratic administrations.

It was Callaghan who, as director of the state Division of Environmental Protection started a "mitigation" program in the early 1990's that ultimately led to the challenge of mountaintop removal.

With mitigation, mine operators were allowed to bury some streams in spoil piles in exchange for financing stream improvement elsewhere.

"It has always been a 'given' among regulators, that the streams of the state of West Virginia belong to the state and to the public," Callaghan said. "The pure philosophy that we've gone by for years is, basically, that you can only damage public resources if you pay for it.

"Mitigation is a concept used and approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, not just for coal mining but for virtually any other activity that affects streams," Callaghan said.

"Experienced regulators have known for years that valley fills, particularly large ones, are of questionable legality," he said.

Ed **MC GUIRE**, a Lewisburg real estate developer and self-described trout fishing addict, said West Virginians often take their common law legacy for granted- until they leave the state and discover the situation elsewhere.

On a fishing trip to the North Platte River in Wyoming, McGuire and his wife were accused of trespassing as they waded through the river in search of a spot to cast their lines.

"West Virginia fishermen are fortunate to have a majority of their favorite fisheries held as public lands," McGuire said. "Although you see a lot more 'no trespassing' signs here than you used to, we just don't have the history or tradition of posting lands as off limits."

Virginia laws have been changed since partition, McGuire said, after landowners filed a lawsuit to lay claim to the stream and the wildlife in the stream.

"As it stands now, landowners in Virginia have the right to prevent you from fishing in their stream," he said.

The state of Montana has taken another approach, McGuire said.

"If you can get in from a public spot, get your feet wet and keep your feet wet, you can fish the entire length of the stream, regardless of who owns it," he said. "The key is keeping your feet wet."

George's research traced West Virginia property law to the Magna Carta, the 13th century treaty in which King John first acknowledged the liberties due an Englishman.

The Virginia General Assembly acted in 1802 to solidify the public's right to access with a law that declared all westerly flowing streams- those now in West Virginia- "to be common lands, owned by all," George said.

The remaining challenge "is how to you define in the year 2001 what was used as a "common stream" in the 18th and 19th centuries", George said. Thomas **JEFFERSON** outlined the potential problem in an 1811 letter to Virginia Governor James **MONROE**.

While Jefferson acknowledged that "the public can use the bed of the river without taking the property of it from me," he also wondered how the 1802 law would work in practice.

"How is a line to be drawn between rivers and creeks, and other brooks and branches?" Jefferson asked.

It remains the single largest puzzle, George said.

## Descendants of Moses Hays of Augusta County, Virginia

Terris 'Terry' C. HOWARD has recently published The First Edition of the "Descendants of Moses HAYS of Augusta County, Virginia." The book is about Moses HAYS and Sophia WOOD, and his second wife, Sarah PETTY, and his descendants from Augusta County, Virginia. The descendants include Elizabeth HAYS and John LUCE; Mary HAYS and Jesse STOCKTON; Hannah HAYS and Mr. HALSEY; James HAYS, Sr. and Mary BUSTER; Isaac HAYS and Mary MITCHELL; Richard HAYS and Rachael RISK; Winstead HAYS and Barbara HOUSE; William HAYS, Sr. and Susannah CUNNINGHAM; George HAYS and Mary VANSCOY; Susannah HAYS and John HARDWAY; Nancy HAYS and Henry CUNNINGHAM; Sarah HAYS and John GALL; Margaret HAYS and John BIRD. The book is 760 pages with brief history, research notes, etc. and is indexed by surname. The genealogy in this book covers the above noted families, in some cases to 9 generations, and also some genealogy of Isaac TAYLOR and Elizabeth HAYS; Elisha and Catherine HAYS; David HAYS and Mary RUSH. If you are interested in purchasing this book, please contact Terry. Terris 'Terry' C. HOWARD, 6535 Seaview Ave NW #303B, Seattle, WA 98117-6051 or by email: [tch6535@aol.com](mailto:tch6535@aol.com).

## The Voice of a Soldier. . . .

Letters written by Civil War soldiers are the closest we have to their voices.

"Civil War Letters of Lt. Milton B. **CAMPBELL**", compiled and edited by Linda Cunningham **FLUHARTY** contains 37 letters written by Lieutenant **CAMPBELL** during his service in the Civil War. He was in Company "I" of the 1st (W) Virginia Infantry, organized at the outset of the war to serve for three months. When the 12th West Virginia Infantry mustered into service in August 1861, **CAMPBELL** enlisted and served with Company "I" until September 1864.

The letters, written mainly to his sister, Mary, provide a first-hand account of the activities of this regiment - and others - during the war. He names many soldiers in his letters, as well as acquaintances from his hometown of New Cumberland, Hancock County, West Virginia.

Lt. **CAMPBELL'S** perceptions are well-articulated and convey to the reader the increasing intensity of the war, as well as the mounting frustrations of this young officer who was ultimately dismissed.

Despite his dishonorable discharge, Lt. **CAMPBELL** becomes an endearing figure through his letters. His actual service was not dishonorable and he seems to have fallen victim to the times and circumstances in which he found himself.

This 196 page book has a laminated soft cover. The cost is \$20.00, including shipping. Order from

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## QUERIES

Your queries are invited and encouraged. Members are permitted unlimited queries, depending on space available. We will try to use all you submit. You may snail mail them to HCPD, 45 Abbotts Run Road, Homer, WV 26372 or e-mail them to [queries@hackerscreek.com](mailto:queries@hackerscreek.com). Be sure to tell us they are for the JOURNAL and include your regular mailing address as well as your e-mail address. Also, it would help if you capitalize the surnames for the editor.

1. I'm looking for descendants of Walter **BENNETT** (born 1837 in England) and Hanna (unknown last name) whose children were Martha Westfall **BENNETT** (b. 1881), Arthur M. **BENNETT**, Irving **BENNETT**, Raymond **BENNETT** (b. 1878), Edward **BENNETT** and Flossie **BENNETT** (b. 1889). I have Martha's descendants but need any known descendants of the other five children. This Bennett family came to America from England in 1845 and lived in Virginia before moving to Upshur County. Send information to DON **SCHAUB**, 6509 Highlawn Dr., Columbus OH 43229-2018. E-Mail: [DonSchaub@msn.com](mailto:DonSchaub@msn.com)
2. Looking for a death and burial record for Richard W. **WINES**. Now we believe he died sometime between 1890 and 1894. He was living in Spencer, Roane Co., WV and had married for the 2nd time to a much younger Rachel **WILSON**, widow of Abraham **WILSON**. Found guardianship bond for him in 1891 for her daughter, Ida May **WILSON**. We thought he had died in 1890. He spent some time in the Camp Chase prison during the Civil War and was released after it was over. At one time, he is said to have owned the Spencer Hotel but I have not found any records on this. Appreciate any information on this man. He is definitely one of my brick walls. Bette **BUTCHER** **TOPP** 304 W. Cliffwood Court, Spokane, WA 99218-2917-[toppline@comcast.net](mailto:toppline@comcast.net)
3. Do you have **STALNAKER** in your family tree? The Stalnaker Family Association is working toward updating and reprinting the book, **STALNAKER CHRONICLES**. If you have any corrections for the book which HCPD does sell or if you have lines that were left out of the book, please send new information or change to me. No date has been set for the publication yet. Joy **STALNAKER**, 213 Linger Run Road, Homer, WV 26372 [joy@hackerscreek.com](mailto:joy@hackerscreek.com)

4. Who was the father of William **TINNEY**? This problem has been impossible to solve even with the information the family has. William **TINNEY**'s obituary states that he was born in 1878 in Lewis Co. on Walnut Fork. His son says, he knows that his father lived there sometime or other, but he is not sure when. On the World War I registration, William claimed he was born in 1880. Regardless, I have not found him on any 1880 census record. According to the death certificate of his younger half brother, the mother was Annie **SHIPMAN**. In the meantime she had married a **COOK**. Nothing more is known about her or her ancestors, but William claimed her as his mother. William helped pay for the funeral of the woman he told everyone was his grandmother, Margaret **OURS TINNEY**, wife of John **TINNEY**. So we know the grandparents, but not the parent of William. John and Margaret had the following boys: John, who moved to Wisconsin, James Benjamin ( William called him uncle Ben), Isaac, who left his family here in Upshur Co and disappeared and finally Elijah. Elijah was last located in 1880 in the Moundsville Pen. I have been unable to find the court case that sent him there, when he got out, or if he died there. Does anybody have any information on this family that might solve this problem? Who was Annie **SHIPMAN** as the Shipman family does not appear to know anything about her? There must be some interesting story here. The **HARRIS** family was involved somehow with James Benjamin's family, maybe they know something. Any little bit of help would be greatly appreciated. Jean S. **LOUDIN** 440 S. Franklin Ave. Sutton WV 26601 [jloudin@rtol.net](mailto:jloudin@rtol.net)
5. Seeking information on the line of Joseph Henry **STOUT** Sr. born in Terre Haute IN. in the 1880's. Moved to New York, then Perry, Oklahoma, then Santa Ana, CA. Came from a family of 13 including sisters Ada and May, who lived in California. Joseph married Lillian **SMITH** of Paola, Kansas Any further info appreciated. Jim **STOUT** 5629 W 71st St Indianapolis, IN [jsstout@juno.com](mailto:jsstout@juno.com)
6. I am tracking the descendants of my great great grandfather Samuel **CAVINS** (aka **CAVAN**) who died in 1880 in Lewis Co. His widow was Edith **CAVINS** nee **SMITH** who d. in Lewis Co 20 May 1916. Their children: John C. **CAVINS** who d. in Lewis Co in 1948. He m. Izetta **BENNETT** – 5 children; William **CAVINS** (my g. grandfather for whom I was named) who d in Doddridge Co in 1946. He m Myrtle Ivy **PIGOTT** – 9 children. I'm still looking for all of them as well. Charles **CAVINS** was alive in 1910 and living in Lewis County.

Susan Ellen **CAVINS**, b in Lewis Co, m. there 29 May 1893 to Benjamin Franklin **CLARK** of Taylor Co. David **CAVINS** m. Turah **PRICE** on 23 Aug 1901 and had two children, Dessie and Joe; and Eldridge **CAVINS** who was in Lewis County in 1900 and Harrison County in 1910. Married a woman by the name of Bertha. Anyone who can help trace this family, please contact me. William R. **CAVINS**, 5330 Poinsettia Ave., Winter Park, FL 32792 407-677-0072  
wrc fl@yahoo.com

7. I am looking for any information about the parents and siblings of Alexander **WIER**, and the year in which he immigrated to the US. Alex was b in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1792 and came to the US sometime before 28 Oct 1822, which is the day he married Sarah **COURTNEY** in Monongalia Co, (W)V. Alex and Sarah had 6 children (James, Ann, Samuel, Joseph, Jane, and Elizabeth), and moved to Trumbull Co., OH, before 1842. Alex applied for citizenship in 1829 and became a citizen in 1836. He is on the 1830 census in Monongalia Co where his name I spelled WARE. I have also seen the name spelled as WEIR. I would be happy to hear from anyone who knows of Alexander **WIER/WEIR/WARE**. Peggy **TEBBETTS**, tcf@cenealogists.net

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